

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## IRA COMBS, JR., NAMED TO ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE BOARD

LANSING, MI, December 5, 2001 – Ira Combs, Jr., a minister and resident of Jackson, has been named to the Attorney Discipline Board (ADB) by the Michigan Supreme Court, the Court announced today. Combs will succeed Kalamazoo resident Diether H. Haenicke, President Emeritus of Western Michigan University, who resigned from the ADB earlier this year due to ill health.

Supreme Court Justice Robert P. Young said, “The Michigan attorney discipline system needs to have talented non-lawyer members on the Attorney Discipline Board. Bishop Combs is just such a person – a respected member of the clergy and very active in his community in Jackson and the state. I am delighted that he has accepted this new opportunity for public service.”

Combs, who is founder and pastor of the Greater Bible Way Temple in Jackson, is also the executive director of Christ Centered Homes, Inc., which provides housing, training and other services to developmentally disabled adults. He is also president and chairman of IRCO Housing Development of Jackson.

A graduate of the Indiana Bible College, Combs is an ordained Elder of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc. He was elevated to Suffragan Bishop in September 2001. Combs studied theology at the Aenon Bible College of Tuskegee, Alabama, and has an honorary doctorate from the college. He also studied finance at Oxford University in England and marketing at Michigan State University.

Combs’ many community activities include serving as Jackson City Police Chaplain and Reserve Police Officer. He is also a director of the Jackson Chamber of Commerce and a member of the State Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board, to which he was appointed by Gov. John Engler. Combs is a member of the “Faith Based Initiative” Steering Committee launched by President George W. Bush; he also serves as Michigan Representative of the Faith Based Initiative. In 1982, he was elected “Outstanding Young Man of America” by the National Jaycees.

The Michigan Supreme Court appoints the nine members – six attorneys and three laypeople – of the Attorney Discipline Board (ADB). The members serve three-year terms; no member may serve more than two terms.

Under the Michigan Constitution, the state Supreme Court is responsible for overseeing attorney ethics and disciplining lawyers who violate ethics rules. The Attorney Grievance Commission, which is also appointed by the Court, prosecutes attorney discipline cases. The ADB assigns cases to hearing panels composed of three volunteer attorneys. The panels act as trial-level courts, hearing the cases and deciding whether attorneys have violated ethics rules. The ADB also reviews hearing panels’ decisions and makes recommendations about attorney

discipline. Parties in an attorney discipline case may appeal the ADB's decisions to the Michigan Supreme Court. The ADB has other duties, including making an annual report to the Supreme Court.

This press release, and other news from the Michigan Supreme Court, may be viewed at [www.supremecourt.state.mi.us](http://www.supremecourt.state.mi.us).